

# First Pacific show proves huge success

BY BOB SPIWAK

The first annual Pacific Coast Turf and Landscape Conference was held in Seattle on Dec. 5-7. Enconced in the city's brand new convention center, the show was sponsored by the Western Washington Chapter of GCSAA, Washington State University's Cooperative Extension Services and Jones and Associates, a Spokane consulting firm.

Seventy companies exhibited their wares for almost 250 attendees representing golf courses, municipal entities and private landscapers.

Lectures included chemical mixing, with a focus on safety and equipment, plant disease identification and control, herbicide damage, and pest management.

The latter explored alternatives to chemicals for pest control and effective work with concerned individuals and groups.

Wednesday's session opened with a presentation on toxic waste disposal. A problem confronting all who deal with chemical substances, the discussion centered on details of paperwork, costs and regulations involved in toxic waste disposal. At a subsequent ques-

tion and answer panel discussion, this topic engendered the greatest number of questions from attendees.

There was consensus that household use of small quantities of toxic chemicals, and failure to heed disposal warnings on the packaging, represented an environmental threat equal to or greater than commercial disposal. It was felt that an educational campaign aimed at the homemaker should be begun.

A discussion of groundwater contamination featured the factors and processes involved in the

breakdown of fertilizers and pesticides, how this process impacts groundwater, and what legally constitutes groundwater contamination.

During the following panel discussion, a question was raised about contamination by fungicides. This is a vital issue in a geographic area where various snow molds breed under snow cover, and fungicide applications begin in early autumn.

The speaker, Gwen Stahnke, Ph.D., responded that there has been very little research done on this facet of turfgrass management,

but that it currently is being addressed.

Cliff Weed, Washington Dept of Agriculture, brought the audience up to date on the latest pesticide regulations.

He announced a toughening of penalties in Washington for violations incurred in the use of toxic chemicals (The civil penalty for each violation has been increased from \$1,000 to \$7,500).

The states are obliged to follow the mandate of the federal insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide law (FIRA) but may exceed this law to whatever degree the legislatures impose.

PIRT, a new state panel going into operation in 1990, is the acronym for Pesticide Incident Review and Tracking.

Comprised of various environmentally-involved state agencies, the panel's operation will be funded by increases in licensing and certification fees for applicators of toxic chemicals, as well as a new surcharge to accompany the licenses.

The final day featured a discussion of practical mathematics in turf and landscape management dealing with calculation of the size of an area, spray calibrations and area measurement conversion.

Erosion control, reduced use of chemicals, irrigation and water conservation were the ingredients of the final session. Entitled "Sound Horticultural Practices, the talk centered on mitigation of groundwater contamination.

The conference attendees had ample time during the three-day seminar to view the wares of the exhibitors, especially during an exhibitor-hosted reception after the Dec. 6 session. Exhibits ranged from the latest high-tech tractors to the newest in minute bentgrass seeds.

Helen Jones, of Jones and Associates of Spokane, who was a co-sponsor and in charge of logistics, considered this first show of its kind in Seattle a success. So much so, that Dec. 12-14, 1990 has been set for the second show.

Bob Spiwak is a freelance writer based in Winthrop, Wash.

## IAGA honors member Rossi

The International Association of Golf Administrators has honored Don Rossi of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., with a special award.

Rossi, executive director of Golf Course Builders of America and the National Golf Car Manufacturers Association, was cited for "special recognition for his service and dedication to the IAGA."

The executive director of the National Golf Foundation from 1970 to 1984, Rossi has been a member of the 20-year-old IAGA since 1971.

The IAGA membership consists of state, regional and local executive directors of golf associations in the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, Sweden and Great Britain.

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